Work Plan with the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS), Russia on 25.11.1997 for cooperation in agricultural research ande allied subjects. The Work Plan aims at scientific and technical cooperation, exchange of information and materials between both the countries through coordination and conducting a joint research projectoral trials that may be mutually identified and by organizing bilateral Workshops and Seminars on topics of mutual interest.

The Work P-lan is likely to be implemented by 31.12.1999.

Area Under Fodder Crops

1707. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would be economically more appropriate to increase area under fodder crops to ensure healthier cattle;

(b) whether the economics of enhanced fodder cultivation and the dairy sector has been worked out;

(c) what would be the ideal ratio of dairy and cereals production in the agricultural sector;

(d) whether any efforts are underway to achieve this ideal production ratio of dairy products and cereals; and

(e) if so, details of specific plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The economic of fodder production and dairy sector has been worked out. The cost-benefit ratio ranges from 1.5 to 3.0 in different fodder cropping system.

(c) There is no systematic study to find out t*he* ideal production ratios of dairy production and cereals.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner

1708. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for keeping the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner vacant indicating the period of such vacancy and action initiated to fill up the post;

(b) whether the A.H. Commissioner is the chairperson of Indian Chapter of WWF;

(c) if so, the compelling grounds for such long deferment; and

(d) status of the proposal towards formation of Indian Council of Veterinary Research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Filling up of the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner has always been under the active consideration of the Government and the Union Public Service Commission have now recommended a candidate for appointment to the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner.

The Central Government is not involved in the functioning of WWF.

(d) No decision has yet been taken to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research under this Department.

उड़ीसा के सूखा प्रभावित लोगों के लिए योजनाएं

1709. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पिछले कई वर्षों से उड़ीसा में सूखे व भुखमरी की स्थिति हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो सर्वाधिक प्रभावित जिले कौन-कौन से हैं और गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इनमें अनुमानत: कितना नुकसान हुआ,

(ग) क्या सूखे व भूखमरी की स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के प्राधिकारियों ने कभी राज्य के प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया हैं,

(घ) यदि हां, तो राज्य में इस समस्या के स्थायी समाधान हेतु बनाई गई योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या हैं और